

EDITORIAL LANGUAGE POLICY AND TRANSLITERATION PRINCIPLES

There is no fixed tradition of reproducing Belarusian names and place names in the English-language literature. This is due to a complex of historical and cultural reasons, but the growth of publications about Belarus and the further development of Belarusian Studies requires a more accurate standardization. Belarusian Political Studies Review adheres to the following rules:

Belarus and Belarusian

The English texts contain different spelling options - Byelorussian, Belorussian, Belarusian etc. We only use the official name and the corresponding derivatives: Belarus, Belarusian. This rule also applies to the institutions and objects that used the words “Belarus”, “Belarusian” in the past. Thus, we use Belarusian SSR, not Byelorussian SSR.

Place Names

BPSReview adheres to the standard of the corresponding instruction approved by the Government in 2007 (transliteration from Belarusian according to the rules of the national Latin alphabet, see below). The standard was also recommended for the use by the international community.

The proposed system is very close to the traditional Belarusian Latin alphabet developed in the ninetieth and twentieth centuries, and is thus the most legitimate one from the legal, cultural and historical point of view.

Other place names are usually transliterated from the language of the country in which the designated places are currently located, taking into account, where possible, the national transliteration rules and the symbols of national alphabets.

Names

Proper names follow the same rules as place names.

It should be noted that in the English-language literature, transliteration from the Russian language or passport writing (with no diacritical marks) are also used.

Given the large number of existing systems and their contradictory nature, in our opinion, the use of a single standard both for names and place names is the only correct way out. In the most significant cases, double writing is provided.

The names of Belarusian authors in the contents and in the beginning of the articles are provided both according to the national Latin and passport spelling. Belarusian Cyrillic writing is also available.

In the list of references, the names of Belarusian authors are provided in the national Latin writing. If a source was published in Russian, then transliteration from the Russian language is provided in brackets “[]” (only ASCII characters).

Newspaper Names

The names of newspapers are given in accordance with the rules of the original language. Belarusian Latin alphabet is used for the Belarusian names, while transliteration from the Russian language is used for the Russian ones.

Organization and Party Names

The names of Belarusian organizations (organizations that are registered in Belarus or for which Belarus is the main country of activities) are provided from the Belarusian language.

Abbreviations for organizations are also derived from the Belarusian language: BNF (Bielaruski Narodny Front), but not BPF (Belarusian Popular Front).

The names of other organizations are provided in the language of the country of main activities.

Other Cases

Specific concepts or words that have no English analogues (e.g. “Kryvija”) are provided with the help of the Belarusian Latin alphabet.